

March 21, 1975

SENATOR MARSH: Then in actuality a lame duck area of government could be making the decisions for the following year. Is that correct?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Marsh, let me tell you that's the way it's done in the school board. First of all let me tell you this that there lame ducks that can make that decision. If I choose not to run in the Legislature, and I'll probably make that choice, if I do, and any of the rest of you, in January. I probably would be in a position where I shouldn't vote then because I'll be voting on the budget bill for next year, or anybody else that's up. The same thing is true with city councils. I don't know how you do it now. If they go in in July, most of the budgetary planning is already resolved. Senator . . . Mayor Ferris of North Platte has made that issue already. He said he's got two new councilmen. The budget's already put together by the time they're sworn in, the first of June. They have that same kind of problem. Again, I think the argument there, and I guess the answer is, yes I'm sure that somebody that may not be serving will be making decisions on the budgets, just like he does in every subdivision of government.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Lewis I have another question I'd like to ask please.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I'll try to be a little more brief.

SENATOR MARSH: Do you have a primary in your city?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: No.

SENATOR MARSH: Are you aware of communities which do have primary elections in the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Yes. Lincoln and Omaha.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you. Yes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body, I'll be very brief, having served in city government I realize the merit and value of this piece of legislation. I think it's only proper that all elected officials go through a primary and then a general so that they are elected by the majority of the pluralities. To answer a question that Senator Marsh posed, presently what you have in existing statute is lame ducks or people going off the council do build the budget. Those coming on new have to live with that budget. This would correct this. They'd take office in January, they would be in on the building of the budget process and the adoption of it. It's a good piece of legislation. I move for the advancement of it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.